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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina REPORT NO. 25X1

SUBJECT Air Activity Around Dien Bien Phu DATE DISTR. 19 April 1954

25X1 NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. REQUIREMENT NO. 25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED REFERENCES

BY CABLE

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Anti-aircraft fire around Dien Bien Phu comes from Viet Minh mobile units, which have been seen, firing individually. It appears that the units have been assigned a specific sector of the sky to cover. These mobile units are placed around the entire Dien Bien Phu perimeter and are moved nightly. The anti-aircraft fire is not pattern firing.¹
2. Pilots are encountering anti-aircraft fire from 37mm guns firing vertically and accurately from 400 to 8,500 feet. During a night drop, five 37mm guns were observed firing, but it is believed that there is a total of six or eight.² A considerable amount of 50 caliber anti-aircraft fire has been encountered. Thus far, six of the Civil Air Transport (CAT) C119's have been hit.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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5. Haiphong airfield is the best field in North Vietnam and is capable of handling all heavy air equipment. Hanoi airfield is in fair condition and can handle medium air equipment. The effects of sabotage are clearly visible on both fields. However, the security of these fields is better than average. There is one guard per plane and passes must be shown to walk on the parking strip.
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- 25X1 Comment. the anti-
- 25X1 aircraft firing is possibly radar-controlled
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- 25X1 2. Washington Comment. Most reports agree that there has been fire from 37mm guns. However, estimates of the number of 37mm guns available have ranged from 30 to 100.
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